



Disease Reporting Q & A

What is the purpose of disease reporting?

Prompt reporting allows the local health agency to interrupt disease transmission, locate and provide prophylaxis or treatment to exposed contacts, identify and contain outbreaks, ensure effective treatment and follow-up of cases, and alert the medical community. The information obtained through disease reporting is also used to monitor disease trends over time, identify high-risk groups, allocate resources, develop policy and prevention programs, and support grant applications.

Who is required to provide information regarding cases of reportable diseases?

- Physicians
- Hospitals
- Other health care providers
- Laboratories
- Schools
- Childcare centers

What diseases are required to be reported?

A list of the reportable diseases is provided. Additional copies are available upon request. Also, the list can be accessed through the Utah Department of Health website:

<http://health.utah.gov/els/epidemiology/report.html>

What patient information should be included in a case report?

- Disease
- Name
- Home address
- Telephone number
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Date of symptom onset
- Date of laboratory test
- Clinical treatment information
- Name and telephone number of healthcare provider
- Any other relevant disease-specific information

When should a report be made?

Most case reports should be made within **three** working days of identification. Some diseases require **immediate** telephone reporting. These diseases are found in bold at the top of the reportable diseases list.

How are diseases to be reported?

Diseases requiring immediate reporting should be telephoned to the Davis County Health Department disease reporting line: **(801) 525-5220**. The disease reporting line is available 24/7. After regular business hours and at rare times when staff are temporarily unavailable, a confidential voice mail system provides an emergency number for diseases requiring immediate reporting. The confidential voicemail system is also available for reporting non-urgent diseases. Non-urgent disease reports may either be telephoned to the disease reporting line, or faxed to (801) 525-5210. Faxed reports and messages left through the disease reporting line voice mail will receive a prompt response.

What about confidentiality (including HIPAA)?

Diseases are required to be reported by the Communicable Disease Rule R386-702, adopted under the authority of Sections 26-1-30, 26-6-3, and 26-23-b. All reports required by rule are confidential and are not open to public inspection. Nothing in this rule, however, precludes the discussion of case information with the attending physician or public health workers. A release of information is not required to provide public health workers with patient information.

Additional Questions?

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